

1 We Claim:

2 1. A fax storage and retrieval system comprising:
3 a fax receiving module configured to receive a plurality of
4 facsimile documents from a plurality of fax devices;
5 a document attribute module configured to allow a user to
6 associate each incoming fax document to a unique attribute set;
7 a fax page splitter module configured to split images of each of
8 said facsimile documents to individual image pages; and
9 a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax
10 receiving module and configured to store each of said pages of
11 said plurality of facsimile documents such that each of said pages
12 is individually retrievable.

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14 2. The system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a fax
15 routing module coupled to said fax receiving module, said fax routing
16 module configured to assign fax numbers for an entity intending to
17 receive said plurality of fax documents.

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19 3. The system in accordance with claim 2 wherein said fax routing
20 module is further configured to assign fax numbers to individual
21 departments within said entity.

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1 4. The system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said fax routing
2 module is further configured to assign fax numbers to individual
3 personnel within said entity.

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5 5. The system in accordance with claim 2 further comprising a fax
6 routing data module coupled to said fax routing module configured to
7 store said assignment of fax numbers for each entity, along with a
8 predetermined email address, so that faxes transmitted to a particular fax
9 number are routed to a corresponding email address as specified in said
10 fax routing data module.

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12 6. The system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said fax routing
13 data module is further configured to store department identification code
14 field for each entity identifying the departments intended to receive said
15 fax, along with member identification code field for each department
16 identifying the members intended to receive said fax.

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18 7. The system in accordance with claim 6 further comprising a
19 document presentation manager configured to retrieve received faxes in
20 accordance with predetermined attributes.

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22 8. A fax storage and retrieval system configured to receives
23 facsimile documents for a plurality of independent entities, said system
24 comprising:

1 a fax receiving module configured to receive images
2 corresponding to said facsimile documents;
3 a page splitter unit coupled to said fax receiving module
4 configured to organize said images of said facsimile documents
5 such that images of each page in said facsimile documents are
6 separately identifiable and retrievable;
7 a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax
8 receiving module and configured to store each of said pages of
9 said plurality of facsimile documents such that each of said pages
10 is individually retrievable; and
11 a document attribute manager unit coupled to said document
12 storage and retrieval system and configured to associate a unique
13 set of attributes to each of said pages in each of said facsimile
14 documents.

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16 9. The system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising a
17 categorization module coupled to said fax receiving module and
18 configured to determine the identity of each of said entities along with
19 their department and member identification.

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21 10. The system in accordance with claim 9 wherein said identification
22 is based on destination address of each fax document.

1 11. The system in accordance with claim 10 wherein said
2 categorization module employs the sender's fax number to assign further
3 categorization parameters to the incoming fax.

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5 12. The system in accordance with claim 11 wherein said
6 categorization module generates a serial number used to visually
7 differentiate each received fax in a user interface based on date and time
8 of receipt.

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10 13. The system in accordance with claim 12 wherein said
11 categorization module generates a sequence number for each individual
12 fax page, which is used to uniquely identify each fax page in the system.

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14 14. The system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising a
15 document presentation manager configured to retrieve documents based
16 on destination fax number of a received fax.

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18 15. The system in accordance with claim 14 wherein said document
19 presentation manger further comprises a document display module
20 configured to display each page of a received fax document, such that
21 each page is manageable independently from other pages of the same fax
22 document.

1 16. The system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising a fax
2 routing module coupled to said fax receiving module, said fax routing
3 module includes a fax number procurement module configured to
4 provide at least one unique fax number for each of said entities.

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6 17. The system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said fax routing
7 module further comprises a fax number association module configured to
8 associate a generated fax number with a department or an individual
9 within said entity.

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11 18. A method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from a
12 plurality of remote fax machines, said method comprising the steps of:
13 obtaining an image of each received fax document;
14 splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a
15 separately identifiable image portion so that an image of each
16 page in a fax document is separately and independently
17 identifiable;
18 displaying to a user said images of each page of a received fax
19 document;
20 providing an interface for said user so as to allow said user to
21 assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document;

1 allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to
2 at least one attribute within said unique set of attributes.

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4 19. The method in accordance with claim 18 further comprising the
5 step of receiving a second fax document relating to a previously defined
6 unique set of attributes; and

7 providing an interface to allow a user to assign said previously
8 defined set of attributes to said second fax document , such that images
9 of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to said user.

10 20. The method in accordance with claim 19 further comprising the
11 step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove or
12 delete anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document.

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14 21. The method in accordance with claim 19 further comprising the
15 step of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding entity, such
16 that a plurality of entities can receive a plurality of fax documents; and
17 providing an interface to each of said entities such that each entity
18 can have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding unique
19 fax number.

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1 22. The method in accordance with claim 21 further comprising the
2 step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding department and
3 a corresponding member within said department for each of said entities.

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5 23. The method in accordance with claim 22 further comprising the
6 step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage unit such
7 that each image of each page of a received fax document is
8 independently retrievable.

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10 24. The method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the
11 step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said images of
12 each page of received fax documents in accordance with an attribute
13 within said unique attribute set.

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15 25. A method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from a
16 plurality of remote fax devices in a hospital environment, said method
17 comprising the steps of:

18 receiving a plurality of fax documents from a plurality of remote
19 fax machines, and from a pre-admission testing department within said
20 hospital, each fax document relating to a corresponding patient scheduled
21 for an in-hospital procedure;

22 obtaining an image of each received fax document;

1 splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a
2 separately identifiable image portion so that an image of each
3 page in a fax document is separately and independently
4 identifiable;
5 displaying to at least one user said images of each page of a
6 received fax document;
7 providing an interface for said user so as to allow said user to
8 assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document, said unique
9 set of attributes relating to a patient information;
10 allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to
11 at least one attribute within said unique set of attributes.

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13 26. The method in accordance with claim 25 further comprising the
14 step of receiving additional fax document relating to a previously defined
15 unique set of attributes; and

16 providing an interface to allow said user to assign said previously
17 defined set of attributes to said second fax document , such that images
18 of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to said user.

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20 27. The method in accordance with claim 26 further comprising the
21 step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove or
22 delete anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document.

1 28. The method in accordance with claim further comprising the step
2 of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding hospital, such that
3 a plurality of hospitals can receive a plurality of fax documents; and
4 providing an interface to each of said hospitals such that each
5 entity can have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding
6 unique fax number.

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8 29. The method in accordance with claim 28 further comprising the
9 step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding department and
10 a corresponding member within said department for each of said
11 hospitals.

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13 30. The method in accordance with claim 29 further comprising the
14 step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage unit such
15 that each image of each page of a received fax document is
16 independently retrievable.

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18 31. The method in accordance with claim 30, further comprising the
19 step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said images of
20 each page of received fax documents in accordance with an attribute
21 within said unique attribute set.